

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 62

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 130

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 62—Relative to Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 18, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 62, Alquist. Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.

This measure would designate November 2007 as Alzheimer's Awareness Month to raise awareness about the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The measure would also designate Tuesday, November 13, 2007, as National Memory Screening Day, and urges the citizens of California to participate in a free and confidential memory screening program.

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive disorder of the brain that results in loss of memory and other cognitive function and, eventually, death; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease affects an estimated five million Americans, and that number is expected to quadruple by 2050, according to recent research by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the eighth leading cause of death in California, and is currently the fifth leading cause of death in California among individuals over 65 years of age; and

WHEREAS, The stigma associated with Alzheimer's disease typically results in a delay in the diagnosis of affected individuals, in some cases up to six years; and

WHEREAS, Caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer's disease suffer from increased levels of stress and depression, which can create health problems that differ from those of caregivers of people with other illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Recent advancements in scientific research have demonstrated the benefits of early medical treatment for individuals with Alzheimer's disease, as well as the benefits of early access to counseling and other support services for their caretakers; and

WHEREAS, With early diagnosis, individuals affected with Alzheimer's disease can avoid or correct contributing medical problems, commence available therapy, organize current and future care, and enhance self-determination, and caregivers for Alzheimer's disease patients can identify and embrace support services; and

WHEREAS, National Memory Screening Day was established by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America in 2003 as a collaborative effort with local organizations and health care professionals across the country to promote awareness, early detection, and early diagnosis of memory impairment so that individuals can obtain proper medical treatment, social services, and other resources related to their condition; and

WHEREAS, National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month is November, and National Memory Screening Day is held each November in recognition of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, During National Alzheimer's Disease Month and National Memory Screening Day, qualified health professionals administer free face-to-face memory screenings at hundreds of sites throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Memory screening is not used to diagnose any illness, but is used as an indicator to determine whether a person might benefit from further examination by a qualified physician; and

WHEREAS, Memory screenings are a safe and cost-effective intervention to direct at-risk individuals to appropriate clinical resources, thus reducing the costs of long-term care or hospitalization resulting from undiagnosed complications; and

WHEREAS, Screenings also greatly benefit those with normal scores by allaying fears, providing a baseline for future screenings, and promoting chronic disease prevention and successful aging; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature designates November 2007 as Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month in the State of California to raise awareness about the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature designates Tuesday, November 13, 2007, as National Memory Screening Day and urges the citizens of California to participate in a free and confidential memory screening program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.